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ABSTRACT

The 2-part student workbook for mainstreamed learning and mentally disabled high school students contains 12 units intended to provide supplementary instruction in the Contemporary Parenting Choices Curriculum in the home economics class. This unit, the sixth in the Child Care part of the workbook, focuses on child care careers and includes individual lessons on types of child care careers, traits and skills needed to work with children, and preparation for a career in child care. Each lesson typically provides lesson objectives, definitions of key vocabulary terms, workbook activities, a brief discussion of the topic, and a review activity. The material is intended to be used with the special Teachers Guide and the other components of the Contemporary Parenting Choices Curriculum. (DB)

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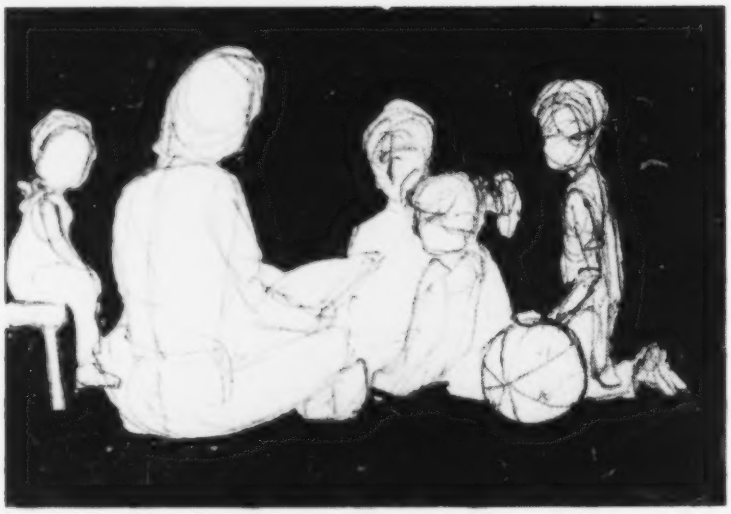
Parent Education Workbook for Mainstreamed Students

PART II / CHILD CARE



contemporary parenting choices lessons

UNIT 12

understanding child care careers

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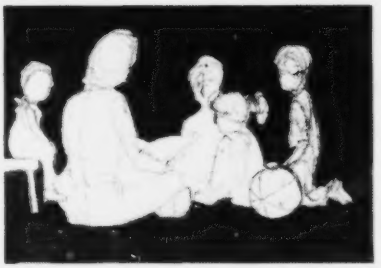


Lesson 1

WHAT ARE SOME CHILD CARE CAREERS?

This lesson will help you to:

1. List kinds of child care careers.

DO YOU KNOW THESE WORDS?

---

caregiver - person who cares for a child
consultant - an expert in an area
specialized - trained for a specific area or job
standard - a model to follow

****

ACTIVITY

Use each of the words above in a sentence. Write your sentences on the lines below.

caregiver _____

_____

consultant _____

_____

specialized _____

_____

standard _____

_____

****

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHILD CARE CAREERS?

Many people are needed in the field of child care. There are many kinds of careers for people who want to care for children. The careers depend on a person's training and qualifications.

You may be interested in working with children. Read about the following careers. This will give you an idea of the types of careers available.

A person could be a full-time caregiver. Caregivers might go to the child's home. They also might care for children in their own home. This is called family or home daycare. The state requires that a home daycare program meet certain standards. This is for the good of the child. A caregiver does not need a lot of experience. A high school degree is desired.

There are career opportunities in child care centers. These centers provide just child care. They might provide a nursery school or preschool along with child care. It depends on the center. The following careers are found in child care centers:

Director. This person oversees the entire program. The director works with the teachers and other people to make sure everything runs smoothly. The director usually has a four-year college degree.

Teacher. The teacher plans lessons and teaches the children. The teacher keeps records and works with parents and other staff. Some places may require a teacher to have a college degree. Others may not.

Child care aide. The aide helps the teacher with the children's activities. The aide works directly with the children. An aide is usually required to have a high school diploma.

Cook. The cook plans and prepares food for the children. The cook may work with the children part of the time.

****

ACTIVITY

Match the job description with the job title. Write the letter of the job title in the blank beside the job description.

Job Description	Job Title
_____1. Helps the teacher	A. Director
_____2. Plans meals	B. Child care aide
_____3. Oversees the entire program	C. Cook
_____4. Teaches children	D. Teacher
_____5. Takes care of children	E. Caregiver

****

There are other careers related to child care. Some examples are child development specialists. They serve as consultants for developing and improving child care programs. Nurses and doctors help keep children healthy. These and other specialized careers require a college degree. Some require more education than a four-year college degree.

ARE THERE ANY JOBS?

There is a need for people in the child care area. More and more parents are working outside of the home. It is predicted that over 6 million mothers with children under the age of 5 will be working. Inflation, the high rate of divorce and career goals cause more and more men and women to work outside the home. This produces a need for child care.

Child care workers are usually paid the minimum wage. This amount is set by the government. Now it is $3.35 an hour. People can earn more as they get more experience and training.

****

ACTIVITY

Read each sentence. Put a T in the blank if the sentence is true. Put an F in the blank if it is false.

_____ There are jobs for people in the child care area.

_____ Child care workers are paid very high wages.

_____ The rise in the number of parents working has created a need for child care.

****

KEY IDEAS

THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF JOBS IN THE CHILD CARE AREA.

THERE IS A NEED FOR WORKERS IN THE CHILD CARE AREA.

****

REVIEW ACTIVITY

Read each sentence. Circle T if the sentence is true. Circle F if it is false.

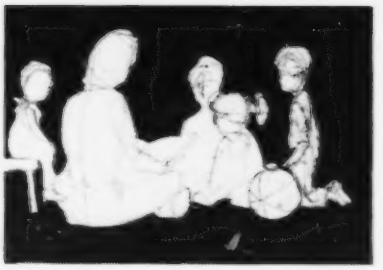
T F 1. People who want to work in the area of child care need a four-year-college degree to get a job.

T F 2. More child care workers are needed because parents do not want to care for their children.

T F 3. People who want to work in the area of child care have many types of jobs to choose from.

T F 4. More child care workers are needed because more mothers and fathers with children have careers.

****



Lesson 2

WHAT TRAITS AND SKILLS ARE NEEDED TO WORK WITH CHILDREN?

This lesson will help you to:

1. Describe traits needed to work with children.
2. Describe skills needed to work with children.

DO YOU KNOW THESE WORDS?

---

consistent - the same
environment - the world around you
management - handling resources like time, energy or money
skills - something you can do
traits - special qualities of a person

****

ACTIVITY

Use each of the words above in a sentence. Write your sentences on the lines below.

consistent _____

_____

environment _____

_____

management _____

_____

skills _____

_____

traits _____

_____

****

IS CHILD CARE FOR YOU?

Are you the kind of person who would like working with children? It is important to think about your personal traits. If you want to work with children, your traits are very important. A child care worker may be more of a parent to some children than anyone else is.

The most important trait to have is that you enjoy children. If you have this feeling for children, patience and a sense of humor should come easily.

A desire to learn more about children is another trait child care workers need. A person could learn more about children by reading books about child care. People could take classes to learn more about children.

People in child care centers must be willing to listen to children. Kids can say things in ways that make them hard to understand. It is important to know how to understand what children mean when they say something.

Have you ever tried to get along with a child that you didn't like? It was probably hard for you. Child care workers have to get along well with all children. They cannot care for only the children they like. It is not easy to get along with all children all the time.

****

ACTIVITY

Put a check beside the traits you think you have.

_____ a love for children

_____ desire to learn more about children

_____ the ability to get along with children

_____ patience with children

_____ willingness to listen to children

_____ a sense of humor

Look at the traits you checked. Do you think you would like to be a child care worker? _____

Do you think you would make a good child care worker? _____

Tell why or why not.

_____

_____

_____

****

WHAT KIND OF SKILLS ARE NEEDED FOR CHILD CARE?

You may feel that you have the traits needed for a job in child care. The next question is, "What types of skills are needed for child care careers?" Let's look at the skills needed by parents. These same skills are needed by child care workers.

Knowing about Child Growth and Development

People who work with children must understand child growth and development. This will help them know what to expect from children. It will help them plan things for the children to do. Knowing about child growth and development will help people understand children better. They will be better able to help children grow and develop.

Providing a Good Environment

Child care workers provide food for children. They need to know about good nutrition. They need to provide foods that help children grow strong and healthy.

People who care for children need to provide things to help children develop their bodies and minds. Child care workers need to know kinds of games that are right for the age of the child. Children will be upset if something is too hard for them to do.

Child care workers need to plan things to help children learn. For example, preschool children need to learn numbers, colors and letters. Child care workers should plan fun ways to help children learn these things.

Showing Love to Children

All children need to be loved. They need to know someone cares about them. A child care worker can show love by a smile, a hug or wink. The child care worker might say, "You are super," to a child. Child care workers who show love to children help children feel good about themselves. Children learn to show love to others as a result.

Communicating with Children

It is fun to talk with children. They can say some funny things. Child care workers need to know how to share ideas and feelings with children. Have you noticed that some people are easier to talk to than others? Children

notice that, too. It is important for a child care worker to listen to children. They need to be able to understand what children are trying to tell them. They help children learn to communicate with others this way.

Guiding Children's Behavior

Children need guidance and discipline. Child care workers need to know how to set limits for children. They need to be consistent in the limits they set. They need to think about the child's age when they set limits.

Discipline is how children learn the difference between right and wrong behavior. A child care worker needs to know how to discipline children. This includes knowing when to praise children. It also includes knowing when to punish them. Child care workers need to know what is right for the child's age. They also need to make the discipline fit the behavior of the child.

Managing Resources

A skill needed by child care workers is management. There are many children to care for and many things to do. Child care workers need to set goals, carry out plans and see how well they worked. Taking care of 6 or 7 children who are 3 years old takes a lot of management. Child care requires careful planning.

Child care can be tiresome for a person who does not like children. It can be hard for a person who does not have the skills needed. It can be rewarding for a person who likes children and has the needed skills.

****

ACTIVITY

Check the skills which a child care worker needs to have.

_____ knowing about child growth and development

_____ showing love to a child

_____ communicating with children

_____ guiding children's behavior

_____ managing resources

Choose one of the skills. Tell how child care workers can show that they have this skill.

_____

_____

_____

****

KEY IDEAS

PEOPLE WHO HAVE CERTAIN TRAITS ARE MORE SUITED TO WORK WITH CHILDREN THAN OTHERS.

SKILLS THAT ARE NEEDED BY CHILD CARE WORKERS ARE:

- KNOWING ABOUT CHILD GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
- SHOWING LOVE TO A CHILD
- COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN
- GUIDING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR
- MANAGING RESOURCES.

****

REVIEW ACTIVITY

Read each sentence. Circle T if the sentence is true. Circle F if it is false.

T F 1. A child care worker who reads books about child care shows a desire to learn more about children.

T F 2. Child care workers who provide foods to help children grow and plan things to help children learn are guiding children's behavior.

T F 3. Child care workers who set limits for children are managing resources.

T F 4. A child care worker who reads books about child care shows a sense of humor.

T F 5. Child care workers who provide foods to help children grow and plan things to help children learn are providing a good environment.

T F 6. Child care workers who set limits for children are guiding children's behavior.

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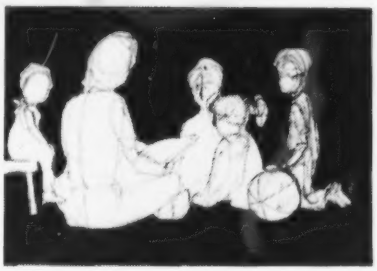

Lesson 3

HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR A CAREER IN CHILD CARE?

This lesson will help you to:

1. List ways you can prepare for a child care career.

DO YOU KNOW THESE WORDS?

---

advanced - extra
consultant - an expert in an area
volunteer - to offer your time without pay
university - a school of higher learning

****

ACTIVITY

Use each of the words above in a sentence. Write your sentences on the lines below.

advanced _____

_____

consultant _____

_____

volunteer _____

_____

university _____

_____

****

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A CAREER IN CHILD CARE?

Here are some ways to prepare for a career in child care. They are:

---

*babysitting
*volunteer work
*education

Let's look at the three ways.

Babysitting

You may have already begun preparing yourself for a career in child care. Babysitting with children is one way of getting to know children. You can also find out if you like young children.

When you babysit, you are responsible for the safety of each child. You can watch children to see how they get along with others. You will understand them more if you know how they develop.

****

ACTIVITY

Check the ways babysitting could help you prepare for a career in child care.

_____ You can get to know children.

_____ You can learn how to buy clothes for children.

_____ You can find out if you like young children.

_____ You can see how young children play together.

****

Volunteer

Working with children as a volunteer is another way to prepare for a child care career. There are many places to volunteer. You could volunteer as a helper at a child care center, church school or a nursery school. When you volunteer, you work with people who have been trained. You become involved with the activities. You also learn how important planning is.

You could also volunteer to work in the children's section of a hospital. Volunteers read books to the children, carry food trays and do other jobs. This will also help prepare you for a career in child care.

****

ACTIVITY

Put a check beside the places where a person could do volunteer work with children.

_____ hospital

_____ race horse track

_____ child care center

_____ church school

_____ nursery school

****

Education

Learning as much as you can about children will help you prepare for a child care career. High schools usually have courses in child development. Some high schools have a preschool program. This gives students a chance to work with young children. Some high schools have a child care occupational training program. Students may attend high school part-time and work in a child care center part-time.

Some area community college programs offer courses in child development or child care. A person could be a child care aide after completing such a program.

Four-year colleges and universities offer more advanced training for work with children. These people would be able to teach children after graduation. They could also teach older students about children. They may become nurses, directors of child care centers or consultants. There are other career and job opportunities for them.

****

ACTIVITY

Match the people with the way they prepared for their career in child care.

_____1. Sam is taking child development classes in high school.	A. babysitting
_____2. Mary takes care of the neighbor's children.	B. volunteer work
_____3. Eddie helps out in the child care center near his home.	C. education

****

KEY IDEAS

BABYSITTING IS A WAY OF PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN CHILD CARE.

VOLUNTEER WORK CAN HELP PEOPLE DECIDE IF THEY ENJOY WORKING WITH CHILDREN.

EDUCATION CAN PREPARE A PERSON FOR MANY TYPES OF CHILD CARE CAREERS.

****

REVIEW ACTIVITY

Read each sentence. Circle T if the sentence is true. Circle F if it is false.

T F 1. A good way to prepare for a career in child care is to babysit.

T F 2. A good place to do volunteer work with children is a bank.

T F 3. Education can prepare a person for only one child care career.

T F 4. A good way to prepare for a career in child care is to watch TV.

T F 5. A good place to do volunteer work with children is a nursery school.

T F 6. Education can prepare a person for many child care careers.

****

SEE YOUR TEACHER FOR THE UNIT TEST.

Parent Education Workbook for Mainstreamed Students

The fourth module in the Contemporary Parenting Choices Series from the Iowa State University Press, *Parent Education Workbook for Mainstreamed Students*, is designed to present parenthood education information to mentally and/or learning disabled students in high school home economics classes.

It contains 12 units, each in a work/text format that offers lessons and lesson objectives, vocabulary, appropriate reading materials, suggested evaluation items for use with each, and an annotated bibliography of supplementary materials.

They provide instruction in 12 major topic areas: self-awareness, relationships, sexuality, living situations, marriage, the decision to parent pregnancy, growth and development of children, parenting skills, adolescence, the work world, and child care job skills.

A teachers manual explains the development of each of these major topic areas, details characteristics of mentally and learning disabled students, and provides methods and strategies for working with these students.

Parent Education Workbook for Mainstreamed Students was developed by members of the Iowa State University Department of Home Economics Education under the direction of Jerelyn Schultz and the auspices of the Iowa Department of Public Instruction.

THE DECISION TO PARENT: A TEACHING GUIDE, the first in a series of modules devoted to contemporary parenting, is directed toward teachers and counselors of teenagers to make them aware of the parenting choices available to them and to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

After completing the study outlined in this first module the student should be able to appraise the variety of responsibilities involved in being a parent and utilize the decision-making process in determining if and when to become a parent.

It implements Public Law #94-492 (1976) that requires the teaching of family living, parenting skills, and child development and guidance in vocational home economics programs.

It is edited by Jerelyn Schultz, assisted by Penny Ralston, Barbara Rougvie, and Margaret Jan Kelly, all of the Iowa State University Department of Home Economics Education. (1980. ISBN 0-8138-1595-9. Paper, comb binding.)

SEXUALITY AND THE ADOLESCENT: A TEACHING GUIDE, the second in the series, is designed for use by teachers, counselors, and others who work with adolescents in the area of sexuality education.

It focuses on the effect of adolescent growth and development on teenagers' self-concepts, the influence of interpersonal relationships within and outside the home on sexual attitudes and behavior during adolescence, and the stages of pregnancy and the decisions to be considered in each.

A broad, sensitive approach to sexuality education, this module addresses feelings, values, experiences, relationships, and how the individual views himself or herself as male or female. Additional topics include the traditional sexuality education concepts such as human physiology and birth control.

Editor Jerelyn Schultz was assisted by Penny Ralston, Barbara Rougvie, Margaret Torrie, and Jillian Boyd, all of the Iowa State University Department of Home Economics Education. (1981. ISBN 0-8138-1616-5. Paper, comb binding.)

PARENTING TODAY: A TEACHING GUIDE, the third module in a series on contemporary parenting, is designed to help teachers assist adolescent youth to become more knowledgeable about what is involved in parenting children.

Six major areas where skills are identified and emphasized are: (1) fostering children's maturation through knowledge of child growth and development; (2) providing an environment that encourages growth and development; (3) maintaining effective parent-child communication; (4) guiding the behavior of developing children; (5) showing parental love and affection to children; and (6) managing available human and material resources.

Parenting Today: A Teaching Guide was developed under the direction of Jerelyn Schultz, assisted by Margaret Torrie, Barbara Rougvie, Jillian Boyd, and Maxine Hammonds of the Iowa State University Department of Home Economics Education, with the cooperation of the Iowa State Department of Public Instruction. (1984. ISBN 0-8138-0358-6. Paper, comb binding.)

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